(b) out of which, how many registrations have so far been done;

(c) how many services are coming under service tax in Karnataka;

(d) the amount collected by way of service tax in Karnataka during 2003-04; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to reach the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE "IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (e) In respect of 58 taxable services notified, there are 20, 435 registrants for the Service Tax in Karnataka. An amount of Rs. 272.48 crore has been collected as Service Tax during 2003-2004 (upto November, 2003). The steps being taken to increase the assessee base include Surveys, awareness programmes by way of Open Houses, Seminars, Workshops and also advertisements through print and electronic media.

Pending enforcement cases

2233. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Enforcement cases are pending with the department;

(b) if so, how many such cases are pending for the last three years;

(c) what is the total value of evasion of taxes on account of these cases; and

(d) what steps are being taken to speed up the disposal of cases and give punishment to the evaders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Directorate of Enforcement under the Department of Revenue is responsible for enforcement of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA) (since repealed) and Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA).

There are 8582 cases pending for adjudication under FERA and 719 cases under FEMA as on 30.11.2003.

(c) The amount involved in cases pending for adjudication is Rs. 14,502.75 crores (under FERA, 1973) and Rs. 443.98 crores (under FEMA, 1999).

(d) Additional adjudicating officers have been appointed to liquidate the pending cases.

Reduction in Government's expenditure

2234. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Government expenditure during the last financial year;

(b) what is the total expenditure this year;

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce the wasteful expenditure of Government;

(d) whether Government have achieved any substantial saving on account of these expenses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Total Government expenditure during the last financial year *viz.* 2002-03 was Rs. 4,12,964 crore as per provisional accounts.

(b) Total expenditure during this year will be known at the close of the financial year.

(c) to (e) Government has taken various steps to curb wasteful expenditure. The austerity measures include ban on creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and on entertainment/ hospitality expenses, reduction in per diem allowance for travel abroad,etc. This is an ongoing and continuous exercise aimed at curbing wasteful expenditure and optimizing Government's current and future expenditure commitments.